

Major Work Stoppages

Technical Note

Major work stoppages are those involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting a full shift or longer, and includes worker-initiated strikes, as well as lockouts by employers. A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of workers (not necessarily members of a union) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of disputes, the Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics; both are included in the term "work stoppage" and are used interchangeably.

Data for the number of workers involved and days of idleness include all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not account for secondary idleness as result of

material or service shortages. The number of workers idled in any stoppage represents the maximum number of workers idled during the reference period for that stoppage.

Data for days idle as a percent of estimated working time shows idleness as a percent of available working time. Available working time is computed by multiplying the total employment during the reference period by the number of days typically worked by most employees during that period.

Additional Information

For more detailed data, contact the Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC 20212-0001. Telephone: (202) 606-6275.

Table D-1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-97¹

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	Beginning in period	In effect during period	Beginning in period (thousands)	In effect during period (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time ²
1947	270	-	1,629	-	25,720	(3)
1948	245	-	1,435	-	26,127	0.22
1949	262	-	2,537	-	43,420	.38
1950	424	-	1,698	-	30,390	.26
1951	415	-	1,462	-	15,070	.12
1952	470	-	2,746	-	48,820	.38
1953	437	-	1,623	-	18,130	.14
1954	265	-	1,075	-	16,630	.13
1955	363	-	2,055	-	21,180	.16
1956	287	-	1,370	-	26,840	.20
1957	279	-	887	-	10,340	.07
1958	332	-	1,587	-	17,900	.13
1959	245	-	1,381	-	60,850	.43
1960	222	-	896	-	13,260	.09
1961	195	-	1,031	-	10,140	.07
1962	211	-	793	-	11,760	.08
1963	181	-	512	-	10,020	.07
1964	246	-	1,183	-	16,220	.11
1965	268	-	999	-	15,140	.10
1966	321	-	1,300	-	16,000	.10
1967	381	-	2,192	-	31,320	.18
1968	392	-	1,855	-	35,367	.20
1969	412	-	1,576	-	29,397	.16
1970	381	-	2,468	-	52,761	.29
1971	298	-	2,516	-	35,538	.19
1972	250	-	975	-	16,764	.09
1973	317	-	1,400	-	16,260	.08
1974	424	-	1,796	-	31,809	.16
1975	235	-	965	-	17,563	.09
1976	231	-	1,519	-	23,962	.12
1977	298	-	1,212	-	21,258	.10
1978	219	-	1,006	-	23,774	.11
1979	235	-	1,021	-	20,409	.09
1980	187	-	795	-	20,844	.09
1981	145	-	729	-	16,908	.07
1982	96	-	656	-	9,061	.04
1983	81	-	909	-	17,461	.08
1984	62	-	376	-	8,499	.04
1985	54	-	324	-	7,079	.03
1986	69	-	533	-	11,861	.05
1987	46	-	174	-	4,481	.02
1988	40	-	118	-	4,381	.02
1989	51	-	452	-	16,996	.07
1990	44	-	185	-	5,926	.02
1991	40	-	392	-	4,584	.02
1992	35	-	364	-	3,989	.01
1993	35	-	182	-	3,981	.01
1994	45	-	322	-	5,021	.02
1995	31	-	192	-	5,771	.02
1996	37	-	273	-	4,889	
1996 Through January	3	4	34.6	37.1	634.8	.03
1997P Through January	1	6	4.3	16.3	237.7	.01

¹ The number of stoppages and workers relate to stoppages that began in the year. Days of idleness include all stoppages in effect. Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the year.

² Agricultural and government employees are included in the total

employed and total working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

³ Data not available.

P = preliminary.

Table D-2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, November, 1996

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during November
Detroit Free Press and Detroit News Detroit, MI Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions and Teamsters	7/13/95		2,500	47,500
Pemco Aeroplex, Inc. Birmingham, AL Automobile Workers	7/22/96		1,100	20,900
Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel Corp. Interstate Machinists	10/1/96		4,800	91,200
General Motors Corp. Janesville, WI Automobile Workers	10/30/96	11/6/96	5,100	20,400
General Motors Corp. Indianapolis, IN Automobile Workers	10/30/96	11/3/96	2,700	2,700
Elevator Industry Flushing, NY Electrical Workers (IBEW)	11/1/96		1,500	28,500
IBP, Inc. Joslin, MD Food and Commercial Workers	11/12/96	11/29/96	1,800	23,400
Stoppages beginning in November 2 Stoppages in effect in November 7			3,300 19,500	234,600

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

Table D-3. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, December, 1996

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during December
Detroit Free Press and Detroit News Detroit, MI Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions and Teamsters	7/13/96		2,500	52,500
Pemco Aeroplex, Inc. Birmingham, AL Automobile Workers	7/22/96		1,100	23,100
Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel Corp. Interstate Machinists	10/1/96		4,800	100,800
Elevator Industry Flushing, NY Electrical Workers (IBEW)	11/1/96		1,500	31,500
Giant Food, Inc. Landover, MD Teamsters	12/18/96		2,100	18,900
Stoppages beginning in December 1			2,100	
Stoppages in effect in December 5			12,000	226,800

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

Table D-4. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, January, 1997^p

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during January
Detroit Free Press and Detroit News Detroit, MI Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions and Teamsters	7/13/95		2,500	52,500
Pemco Aeroplex, Inc. Birmingham, AL Automobile Workers	7/22/96		1,100	23,100
Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel Corp. Interstate Machinists	10/1/96		4,800	100,800
Elevator Industry Flushing, NY Electrical Workers (IBEW)	11/1/96		1,500	31,500
Giant Food, Inc. Landover, MD Teamsters	12/18/96	1/19/97	2,100	22,200
General Motors Corp. Morain, OH Electrical Workers (IUE)	1/26/97	1/28/97	4,300	8,600
Stoppages beginning in January 1			4,300	
Stoppages in effect in January 6			16,300	238,700

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
^p = preliminary.